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HISTORY OF THE PARSIPPANY
PRESEBYTERIAN CHURCH

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HISTORY

OF THE

Parsippany Presbyterian Church

FROM ITS FIRST LOG STRUCTURE
TO THE PRESENT TIME AS COM-
PILED FOR THE PARSIPPANONG
CHAPTER N. S. D. A. R., * * *



BY ITS HISTORIAN
ANNETTE C. BALL

HISTORY

OF THE

PARSIPPANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ANNETTE C. BALL

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HISTORY OF THE FIRST PARSHIP- PANY MEETING HOUSE

In giving a sketch of the first Parsippany meeting house, which we believe was a log structure, we find we are obliged to recount some history already brought before our society, as in the days of the early settlement here the names of Whippanong and Parsippanong seemed to encompass much more territory than at present and consequently if there is some repetition I trust you will bear with it that we may be able if possible to gain some idea of the struggles made and hardships endured by these pioneers in order to maintain a church by themselves.

The deed given by Mr. Richards in 1718 for three and one-half acres of land situated and being in the township of Whippanong in that part called Parsippanong on the northwest side of Whippanong river, only for public use and benefit, for a meeting house, schoolhouse, burying yard and training field and such like uses and no other,—included we know the country side for many miles in all directions and so long as the modest structure erected on that ground, which is now known as Whippany, was fit for occupancy our ancestors doubtless felt no need for another church home, but when the time for flight came, “As the Eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings,”—so did those men of old go forth from that mother church to rear new and more commodious houses of worship at Morristown, Madison, Hanover and Parsippany.

In the year 1745 Mr. George Bowlsby deeded two and one-half acres of land to Mr. Ichabod Tompkins and Mr. Simeon Van Winkle for a site for a meeting house and a burying ground for the use of Presbyterians and none other. The deed is witnessed by Mr. Ebenezer Hayward and Mr. Samuel Smith.

It is not until 1755, ten years later that we hear of the church, or meeting house as it was called, being built. For five years after the building of this, and the house of worship at Hanover, Mr. Green continued pastor of both churches. In 1760 Mr. Green makes the record that Parsippany people are allowed to seek a minister by themselves, and he ceased his ministrations among them. Dr. Darby, who resided in upper Parsippany, was both Physician and minister, and it seems probable that he ministered to their spiritual, as well as physical needs until 1767.

March 2, 1758, was the natal day of the Rockaway Presbyterian Church. On that day was drawn up a paper stating their desire “To join with Parsippany to call and settle a minister to preach interchangeable between Presepening and Rockaway.” It was not

carried into effect until 1767. In that year Rev. James Tuttle, a native of the township, and a son-in-law of Rev. Mr. Green, was ordained over these two churches. Mr. Tuttle residing in Parsippany until 1770, when en-feeble health compelled him to resign and on December twenty-fifth of that year he died. For the next three years Dr. Darby may again have supplied their pulpit but there is no existing record of this church down to January 7, 1773, when the first meeting of this parish is recorded and from this date this record is authentic as it is taken from the original "society book" which came into the hands of my brother, Richard Howell, of Devon, Pennsylvania, and now presented by him to the officers of this church to be preserved, I trust, for at least another five generations.

Captain John Stiles, the great, great grandfather of Mrs. Andrew L. Cobb, was moderator of this first recorded meeting and Mr. Isaac Sargent was clerk. The first vote after the choice of officers was to seat the meeting house which indicates that the building which stood in front of the cemetery and which is remembered by some of our oldest inhabitants must have been built before this time. The committee to manage the affair of seating the meeting house was composed of Captain John Munsen, Benjamin Howell, Job Baldwin, Edward Cobb, and Isaac Sargent. Job Baldwin was the great grandfather of the present generation of Baldwins and Mrs. E. W. Kimble, and Edward Cobb and Benjamin Howell were my great, great grandfathers.

March 2, 1773, there was another parish meeting at which it was voted to hire Mr. Green of Hanover to preach for us a third of the time, voted Captain John Stiles and Benjamin Howell leading men of our society, and voted Ebenezer Hayward to sweep the meeting house and to have twelve shillings per year. They were also to sweep and sand the floor and Trustees were to provide the sand.

April 1, 1775, at an informal meeting at Mr. Haywards, after some dispute as to whether "we should try to git a Presbyterian or Congregational" that this measure should be taken that a short instrument should be written and offered to the society to manifest their choice in the matter. The instrument reads as follows:

"Whereas we are about to send for a minister this is to desire every member of the society to declare what one they choose by writing their names under the words

Presbyterian

Ebenezer Hayward	Jabesh Halsey	Samuel Stiles
Moses Crane	Edward Paddleford	Cornelus Meeker
Isaac Haley (Halsey)	Nathan Howell	John Stiles
Stephen Baldwin	John Cobb, Jr.	Eligah Stiles
John Slater	John Michal	
John Munson	Isaac Farrand	

Congregational

Thomas Baldwin	David Ransford	Thomas Cumpson
William Halsey	Daniel Hayward	John Bowers
Anthone Joline	Job Baldwin	Isaac Beach
Elios Baldwin	Obidiah Baldwin	Peter Doremus
Thomas Meeker	Paul Leonard	Job Secorn
Silas Baldwin	Isaac Sergeant	Benjamin Howell
Epheream Watkins	Phineas Ward	Danil Baldwin
Abner Beach	Edward Cobb	Levi Baldwin
John Hayward	Josiah Crane, Jr.	Thomas Ward
James Johnson	John Kint	Jones Ward
Joseph Colleure	Richard Edwards	Isaac Baldwin
Jered Capron	Jacob Minton	Ichabod Mun
Caleb Crane	John Tichenor	Bethuel Farrand
Josiah Crane	Joseph Bond	Isaral Canfield
Samuel Cobb	Jacob Baldwin	Joseph Clark
Josiah Leonard	Joel Haley (Halsey)	Thomas Davey
David Leonard	Samuel Sareant	Isaac Healy
Ebenezer Farrand	Nathanil Willson	Walter Norris
Ezekiel Baldwin	John Cook	John Millidge

There are sixteen signatures for Presbyterian and fifty-seven for Congregational. With five exceptions every given name in the list is a bible name. At the meeting to which the above paper was reported it was voted first to send for a minister, second that Isaac Sargeant go into New England for a minister, third that if the man that goes for a minister cannot get a Congregational be is to use his indiver to git a Presbyterian. This vote indicates that while they had their preferences and were positive in them they were not bigoted in the matter. To defray the expenses of Mr. Sargeant a subscription paper was circulated and ten pounds six shillings and six cents were subscribed.

On the seventeenth of May Mr. Sargeant set out, probably on horseback. How disappointed they must have been when on the twenty-seventh of June he returned announcing his failure to procure a minister. On September 3, it was voted to join Rockaway in applying to the Presbytery for a minister and that Benjamin Howell and John Stiles go to Rockaway to conclude the agreement. This overture from this parish was declined at Rockaway. On October seventh voted to apply to the Presbytery for supplies for six months and to send Mr. Isaac Halsey for Mr. Avery. There is no intimation that Mr. Avery was secured. On the twenty-second of November, 1773, at a parish meeting it was voted to hire Mr. Grover. It is added in a note, this Mr. Grover was a candidate whom Mr. Job Baldwin brought from New England. It was voted to give Mr. Grover twenty shilling for each Sabbath until May, and keep himself and horse. March twenty-fourth 1774 the record reads, "Satisfied with Mr. Grover's principles and to

give him a call to settle with us within five days the following is recorded as sent to the Presbytery :

To the Reverend Presbytery of New York.

We the inhabitants of Percepening with gratitude humbly acknowledge the favor and blessing of being under your patronage and prosavious and through your kindness have enjoyed the favor of Mr. Grover's improvement as a candidate for the Gospel ministry and have had sufficient opportunity of trial and to gain an acquaintance with him we are universally satisfied with his abilities for the work of the Gospel ministry. Therefore we humbly show our earnest and united desire and request that he may be ordained over us. We likewise being very sensible that those who give themselves to that arduous work should have a comfortable and reputable support and in consideration thereof we have engaged by our subscription to give Mr. Grover one hundred pounds light money to be paid at the time of his ordination as an encouragement for his settling with us. Likewise by vote of parish agree to give him the use of one hundred pounds worth in profitable parsonage lands during his continuance with us in the ministerial work, eighty pounds salary per year, money eight shilling per ounce for the two first years, after raise five pounds more per year four years with his firewood. We humbly desire the Reverend Presbytery to take this our earnest request into consideration and when the importance of having the Gospel settled among us is duly considered we hope the reverend Presbytery will use their assistance and influence to accomplish our request and will op-point a time for and afford assistance in ordaining Mr. Grover over us providing he should be disposed to accept of this our invitation.

Committee :

John Stiles,
Benjamin Howell,
Job Baldwin.

Persippening, April 30, 1774.

These three men were chosen a committee to consult with Mr. Grover and see whether he would accept the call. At the same time forty-four of the leading men of the parish entered into an agreement to have their estates assessed for Mr. Grover's support. He accepted the call and these dovout men evidently determined to give him his entire support and have his undivided time as we find in September of the same year they refuse to let Rockaway join with them in giving Mr. Grover a call.

October 4, 1774 at a parish meeting it was voted that Capt.

John Stiles, Benj. Howell and Job Baldwin be a committee to settle with Isaac Sargeant the old affair of this parish and to take the writings out of his hands, also to buy Ashers Smith's plantation for a parsonage and to give two hundred pounds for it. John Stiles, Benj. Howell, Job Baldwin, Isaac Halsey, Ebenezer Farrand, Jr., Moses Crane, Jonas Ward, Josiah Crane, Jr., John Salter, David Cory, Job Bacorn, Isaac Beach and Ebenezer Hayward for to buy the above mentioned plantation and take a deed of the same and settle the *hole* affair of said parsonage, also that the above committee shall have as many of the parish as they shall call for to secure them from future damage. That they felt that they were attempting more than they could carry we judge from the proceedings at the next meeting April 5, 1775, when they appointed Elder Thomas to go to Colwell, Samuel Hennion to Newark, Elder Cran to Westfield, and Job Baldwin to Mendham. The above named persons are to go to the Presbyterian Society for to ask favor of them and to *git* as much as they can and bring home to Persippamy and all that was given or to be given to be used for their parsonage.

-In August they voted to finish the lower part of the meeting house as high as the tops of the pews, that all persons shall sit where they think proper on the Sabbath in this meeting house and no offense to be taken by any person, Jacob Halsey and John Frost Clarke to read and set the psalm at meeting.

In January, 1776, they voted to fix the parsonage house by the first day of May. Mr. Grover can move into it perhaps to take his bride, as he married Sarah, daughter of Benjamin Howell, who died in 1781 leaving one daughter Abigail. They were to proceed to provide stuff for to build a parsonage this winter and a year from next spring to go on with the building. "A committee shall *calcolate* the stuff and parcel it out to such people as shall see fit to take it to *git*."

At a parish meeting held at Deacon Benj. Howell's, April 11, 1780, a committee was appointed to take a deed of the commissioners of this county for forfeited estates for a certain piece of land left to the parish of Parsippamy by Joseph Millidge. Perhaps they found some little assistance from the sale of this land, but as we follow on year by year we find them still striving by sending assessors and collectors through the parish to pay the expenses, and as late as 1781 a committee composed of Job Baldwin, Capt. Jonas Ward and Capt. Hiram Smith to provide stuff to finish the meeting house and to carry on the work as the subscription now raised will allow. They privileged any one willing to go on with the work of the building the front of the galleries, to do so under the direction of Job Baldwin and Jabesh Tichenor, to have the front of the gallery done with pine boards and banisters. Perhaps be-

cause of this unfinished condition Silas Baldwin was to sit up in the gallery to collect contribution and to take care of the young people and children that they do not play in meeting. They were to have a weekly contribution on every Sabbath after meeting gathered on plates. They were to sing old tunes on the Sabbath in the forenoon or one-half the time and the other half the time to sing such tunes as the singers think proper. After one month to prepare books to sing one-half the time on the Sabbath without the clerk reading the lines. Mr. Samuel Frost, the clerk of this parish for setting the psalm, shall have leave to call to his assistance such persons as he shall think proper. Voted to give the singers the three centre seats in the meeting house in the middle bar to set in on the Sabbath.

We find in April 1782 they were appointing a committee to settle the value of a certain sum of continental money in the hands of the parsonage committee paid to them by the parish to discharge certain bonds due on the parsonage land. The parish chose Col. William Bott and the committee chose John Cobb who reported the money worth one-fifth part as much as silver. From 1775 to 1793 we find the Trustees paying interest and principal to the Trustees of the Bergen Dutch Reformed Church for money borrowed, the first note given Jan. 10th, 1775 is signed by Aaron Dod and Samuel Hinman and witnessed by Anthony Johnes, Bartholomew Doughty and Thomas Compson, the last receipt signed Bergen, Dec. 16th, 1793, received of Hiram Smith, Esq. by the hands of John Howell, eighteen pounds, six shillings and eleven pence, toward a certain bond given by said Smith, Job Baldwin, Isaac Beach and Jonas Ward to the Trustees of the Church of Bergen, bearing date Nov. 4th, 1783, signed by Daniel Jan Ripien, and Nicolas Toirs, doubtless these were the notes for which the continental money was given. Voted after deducting the sum of ten pounds which Mr. Grover hath voluntarily subscribed toward the building and finishing of the parsonage, we as a parish hold ourselves bound to reimburse him whatever sum he may have or shall advance for that purpose. Thus we see Mr. Grover's willingness to lend his aid, but in June, 1786 he made his address to the congregation for a dismission from the work of the ministry from this congregation or that he be supported yearly on better footing than he heretofore had been. A committee was to take the obligation through the parish, perform the business in two weeks and make return to the society of their success which must have been satisfactory as Mr. Grover remained with this congregation until 1798.

Let us keep in mind that these were years of war and these brave men were defending their country, as we find so many of them bearing titles of Colonel, Captain, Major, Justice and so forth. They were also striving with all their might to maintain the Gospel

ministry as we find they voted that, all we that are present will exert ourselves to support the Gospel ministry in this place and further that we will use all our influence with our neighbors to encourage them to assist us. They also voted that this meeting house is free for any of the Baptist ministers to preach in on any week day or on the Sabbath with Mr. Grover's consent.

On June 12, 1790, it is voted immediately to go on to finish the meeting house. Job Baldwin, Squire Hiram Smith, Samuel Stiles and John Stiles to have the care of carrying on the work, likewise of fencing the burying ground. Thus we see that Mr. Grover's ministry extending from the year 1774 to 1798, a period of twenty-four years, must have been filled with earnest purpose, else those men would have lost heart in striving to maintain their minister, his church and house which were so long in being completed.

Ere we bid adieu to Mr. Grover, let us tarry to get a glimpse of what is doubtless taken from his pen, the epitaphs of his wife and father,

In Memory of
EBENEZER GROVER

who departed this life
January 30, 1782,
in the 61st year of his age.

A few days before his death he came from New England
to make his son Rev. Joseph Grover a visit.
Who can promise a return when going from their habitation.

In Memory of
SARAH HOWELL

wife of Rev. Joseph Grover
who exchanged worlds

April 30, 1781,
in the 30th year of her age

How loved, how valued once, avails ye not. To home related
or by home begot, a heap of dust alone remains of thee,
'tis all thou art and all ye proud shall be.

From November, 1798, to May, 1799, Rev. Mr. Hoyt preached for them. On May 10, 1799, they appointed a committee to settle with Mr. Stephen Hoyt. At the same time David Leonard, Daniel P. Crane, Abraham Kitchell, Esq., and Job Baldwin were appointed

a committee to request the Rev. Abel Jackson to preach for us. On the 27th of May Major Hiram Smith, Capt. Phineas Farrand and Stephen Cook be appointed to hire a place of residence for Mr. Jackson till Mr. Grover leaves the parsonage. In October 1799 Rev. Abner Benedict had preached for them four weeks and David Leonard, Daniel P. Crane, Job Baldwin, Hiram Smith, John DeHart were appointed a committee to wait on Mr. Benedict in order to engage his labors in the Gospel ministry for three years or less as they can agree, to offer him two hundred and fifty dollars, (note the change from pounds to dollars,) with the use of the parsonage and twenty-five cords of fire wood. July 1st, 1803 voted that Mr. Benedict enjoy the use and benefit of the parsonage together with the crops thereon until the first day of November next. Mr. Benedict's son Abner married Nancy, daughter of Capt. Phineas Farrand, and was the grandfather of Mr. William B. Benedict.

After Mr. Benedict's removal there was a conference again with Dr. Darby and Mr. Whilpley in regard to supplying the pulpit the present season. In September 1804 a call was given to Rev. Samuel M. Phelps, on the following conditions,—to offer him an annual salary of three hundred dollars and twenty cords of fire wood and the use of the parsonage. It was voted that the Dutch people be invited to attend public worship gratis and that Mr. Phelps preach funeral sermons gratis, also that the black people withdraw from the back seat. On the 29th of April 1807 we find an agreement between Mr. Phelps and thirteen of the property owners engaging him to teach for one year the Troy School in the upper room for the sum of three hundred dollars. Mr. Phelps remained with this congregation until April 1815.

At a parish meeting held August 23, 1815, it was voted that we hire a minister for one year. When the Reverends Messrs. Demorest, Ford, and Brumdrige were severally nominated. The votes were as follows, Mr. Brumdrige 12, Mr. Demorest 11, and Mr. Ford 61. The moderator declared Rev. John Ford duly elected. Voted that Hiram Smith, Stephen Cook, John Howell, John DeHart and Benj. Smith be a committee to wait on Mr. Ford and engage him to preach for us one year as they can agree. On the 25th of January, 1816, it was voted that Hiram Smith, Lot Dixon and Abram Cook be a committee to subscribe a call and to wait on the Presbytery with said call to the Rev. John Ford. Mr. Ford was to have \$400.00 in half yearly payments together with the use of the parsonage and a sufficiency of fire wood for his family use. Thus began the ministerial work of Mr. Ford which continued for forty-one years; for a period longer than Moses lead Israel or David was their king. He was the Shepherd of this flock. He began in his early manhood, here he did the work of his life identifying

himself with the parish and community. The intelligence which was enjoyed by the past generation in this vicinity, I have heard attributed largely to the influence of Mr. Ford.

September 1819 was the first date accounting the sale of seats at public vendue. Major Daniel Farrand was one time auctioneer for which service he was to receive one dollar. The amount raised was \$410.00 for the first floor and \$40.00 for the gallery. In 1819 we read of the congregation supporting a young man in Parsippany for one year who is studying for the ministry and the church contributing \$49.50 to the Presbyterian Educational Society. This is the first account of missionary work I have found.

It would be interesting could we note the names of trustees, choristers, assessors and collectors but time fails; but for the account of the words of the oaths of "abjuratin and allegiance" demanded of all members of Corporations in Revolutionary days we must take note. In the Record of Religious Societies, page six is found this unusually full and interesting entry as follows:

"This may certify that

Benjamin Howell, Esq'r,
Samuel Frost,
Job Baldwin,
Josiah Crane,
Hiram Smith,

have this day severally took and subscribed the oaths of abjuration and allegiance before me and also an oath for true and faithful performance of their duty as Trustees of the Second Presbyterian Congregation of Hanover, in the County of Morris to the best of their judgment and understanding.

Aaron Kitchell."

Sworn

"I do swear that I do not hold myself bound to bear allegiance to the King of Great Britain."

"I do swear that I do and will bear true faith and allegiance to the government established in this state under the authority of the people.

Benjamin Howell" &c. each aforesaid.

Sworn before me the 27th day of March, 1787,

Aaron Kitchell.

"We do swear that as trustees of the second *prespeterion* congregation of Hanover in the county of Morris that we will execute

the trust reposed in us with fidelity to the best of our understanding.
Benjamin Howell, (&c. each aforesaid).

Sworn before me the 27th day of March, 1787,
Aaron Kitchell."

The original of which the above is a copy being found filed in the office of clerk of this Co. of Morris. I *thot* proper to record the same.

C. Russell, Clerk."

Thus we have followed this church history through its years of struggle and bravery and one time dissension when Mr. Green and Mr. Grover withdrew from Synod and with many other ministers organized the Presbytery of Morris County as an independent Presbytery. Soon after Mr. Fords settlement here the church became in fact what it had always been in name a Presbyterian Church and resumed its connection with the Synod of New York and New Jersey, and here we will leave the records as we find nothing of special interest during the intervening years until 1828 when the present church was built of which we hope to hear at a later date.

A. C. B.,
Historian Parsippanong Chapter D. A. R.

Read at the home of the Regent Mrs. Fairchild, April 14th, 1914.

1828 - 1915

At a parish meeting held this tenth day of March in the year of our Lord 1828 at the Presbyterian meeting house at Parsippany agreeably to public notice duly given by advertisement in writing set up on the door of the said meeting house and there continued for the space of ten days previous to the said meeting and also agreeably to notice published from the pulpit in said meeting house on the last Sabbath for the purpose of choosing trustees of parish heretofore known as the parish of Parsippany, and for transacting other business, under an act of the legislature of New Jersey entitled, "An act to incorporate trustees of religious societies, passed the twelfth day of June 1799. They were to take the oath of allegiance to support the constitution of the United States, the oath of allegiance to the government of this state and the oath faithfully to execute the trust reposed in them as trustees. John Howell was chosen moderator of this meeting and Walter Kirkpatrick clerk.

The Throne of Grace having been addressed by the Rev. John Ford the meeting proceeded to the business of electing the following trustees: Henry Harrison, Tobias Boudinot, Hiram Smith, Jr.; William Gladson and Stephen Fairchild were respectively nominated and to these men with the consent of the meeting it seems evident that we are indebted for the readoption of the name we have so lately discarded, viz. The Second Presbyterian Congregation in Hanover. Upon returning to the meeting after having organized with Tobias Boudinot as president they announced that they had chosen the name above mentioned which was unanimously approved by the meeting. In 1787 this was the name by which the church was known, but as we see at this date, March 10, 1828 they are resuming this name, they must have felt it more desirable than the parish of Parsippany which probably had been used during some at least of the intervening years. They were now to take the following oath: "I do solemnly promise and swear that I will faithfully and impartially and justly perform all the duties of office of a trustee of the Second Presbyterian Congregation in Hanover, according to the best of my ability and understanding, so help me God. Sworn to and subscribed before me the tenth day of March, 1828. Ebenezer F. Smith, Justice of the Peace."

Resolution one and two of this meeting related to minor business but resolution three that a subscription be drawn by the Clerk for the purpose of raising money to build a new meeting house at Parsippany and that a committee of five persons be appointed to solicit subscriptions for that purpose, was an all important one. William Hennion, Jacob Green, Isaac Quimby, James Renton, and Samuel P. Smith were the trustees chosen.

A resolution was then passed that the new meeting house should be constructed of brick about forty-three feet wide and about sixty feet long with a steeple and bell and with a lecture room underneath in the basement story. That seven thousand dollars be raised by subscription on or before the first day of May next, and if the said sum of seven thousand dollars be not actually and in good faith subscribed by that time, such subscriptions as may then have been obtained shall be deemed void and of no effect and not binding on the subscribers. That the new meeting house shall be erected on the present meeting house lot or on Mr. Paddleford's hill, as may be determined by a majority of the votes of the Parishoners who shall have responded toward the erection of the said new meeting house and who shall be present at the first parish meeting called for that purpose. Every person who subscribed toward this building was to have the right, when finished to purchase and hold a seat or seats to the full amount of what he or she had subscribed toward this meeting house, that John Mitchell, Benjamin L. Condit, Isaac Quinby, Stephen Fairchild, Richard Smith and Walter Kirkpatrick are hereby appointed a building committee. All this business seems to have been transacted at this one important meeting.

On the first of May their hearts must have rejoiced as they learned that more than the required seven thousand dollars had been subscribed in sums from twenty-five cents to five hundred dollars, which heads the list as subscribed by Hiram Smith and sons. The Troy Sewing Society gave one hundred dollars. There are twelve other \$100 subscriptions, eight \$200, four \$150 and one \$140 and many more in sums of smaller amounts, making in all the sum of \$7,420.25.

On May seventh another meeting was called to decide upon the site for the building of the new meeting house. The subscription list was taken up by the moderator, Ebenezer F. Smith and each and every name thereon called and the vote of each person noted by the stated clerk, Walter Kirkpatrick. On this interesting page are three columns of names separated by two perpendicular lines, one marked "old site" and the other "new site" and there a cross marks each man's choice. The result was seventy-one votes for Mr. Paddleford's Hill for which \$100 was afterward paid and twenty-four for the old site.

This list of names and a copy of the deed are in the church book, also a copy of the contract for building the church which was awarded to Moses Dodd and Aaron Marsh, of Newark.

It is interesting to note that employment was to be given to residents of the parish whenever possible and preference given to those who subscribed to the building fund and mention is made of hiring men and teams in and about the brick yard and of purchasing wood to burn the brick. Abiathan Lyon is said to have paid his subscription of \$25.00 and to have carted sand with an ox team for two weeks. Inspectors of the work were Calvin Howell, of Whippany; Daniel H. Fairchild, of Dover, and Isaac Nichols, of Newark. The trustees proposed to reserve as much of the old church as may be needed to finish the session room in the new church and to sell the remainder.

They now proceeded to enlarge the cemetery by placing the fence nearer the road and to circulate a subscription which they believe will meet with universal approbation to build a good fence around the spot "wherein they have deposited their dead and where in the living must very soon go." They also had an urgent call to repair the parsonage. They seem to have met these demands promptly and on October ninth, 1829 they were called together to attend the sale of pews and seats which had been advertised in two newspapers published in Morristown, also an account of the dedication of the house which took place the previous day October eighth. I have not been able to find any account of the dedicatory services but the following three verses taken from an ode containing fifteen, written by Mr. Ford for the occasion brings to us a little of the spirit of strength and devotion which pervaded this house of worship.

This mansion now thine eyes behold
Dearer to us and Thee than gold,
And now like those of ancient days,
We dedicate it to Thy praise.
Not give it Thee, 'twas Thine before,
E'en while in clay, and tree, and ore,
We have but reared what Thou hast given,
And now we seal it back to Heaven.
Accept Thine own and own it Thine,
Here may Thy power and mercy shine,
Enter and make it Thine abode,
An earthly palace for our God.

Isaac Quinby, Stephen Fairchild, Benjamin L. Condit and Tobias Baudinot were chosen to make a fair valuation of each pew and lay an annuity of six percent on each valuation. This was done to raise the yearly salary. Our church book contains the plan of the ground floor and gallery seats. Each seat numbered, giv-

ing valuation, annuity and name of original owner. I have John Howell's deed for pew No. 10 for which he paid \$100.00 and was to pay an annuity of \$600 unless they needed more money when an additional annuity was to be paid by each pew owner. The trustees were directed to procure a seat on the first floor for the use of the poor.

On June 28, 1834, the parsonage farm was sold to Mr. W. C. H. Waddell for \$2259.85 and the farm of Martin Boulsby purchased for \$2250.

At a meeting on September 5, 1834 Hiram Smith and D. S. Quinby were empowered to circulate a subscription for the purpose of engaging Mr. Maybe to play the base viol on the Sabbath for one year.

At a meeting August 21, 1830 it was voted that the sexton, Daniel Lyon, received compensation at the rate of \$26.00 a year for ringing the bell, sweeping and keeping clean the meeting house, building fires when needed, lighting candles at night meeting and properly taking care of the house. I do not know in what these fires were to be lighted as it is not until 1836 that we find a committee appointed to procure stoves and materials for warming the house. From this time to the close of Mr. Ford's pastorate there is nothing on the records of the parish calling for special remark, the minutes containing little more than the names of the officers elected at the annual meetings.

In May 1857 Mr. Ford having reached the age of seventy years and having been pastor of this church more than forty-one years tendered his resignation. Mr. Ford had been a hard worker. During his early ministry his parish extended as far as Boonton, Littleton, Pine Brook and a portion of Montville, and he was in the habit of preaching statedly at these points. He prepared a catechism which was printed and extensively used in the Bible classes which he organized in the different neighborhoods and which were regularly met and instructed by him. There were several extensive revivals during his pastorate and large additions made to the church. He ranked high as a Preacher and the testimony of his ministerial brethren was that he was remarkable for readiness and power as a preacher and debater, which is proven by the fact that at his evening service he would frequently ask his congregation to give him a text upon which he would proceed to preach a sermon. At his resignation a series of highly commendatory resolutions were adopted by the parish and published in the New York Observer and the Evangelist. As a teacher he was held in high esteem and he greatly aided a number of young men in their efforts to study for the ministry or for business.

The following regarding the African School at Parsippany is taken from the Newark News of July 21, 1914, as described in a

pamphlet that was issued in 1817. In this year New Jersey was a slave state but there was inaugurated about this time an extensive movement to benefit the negro particularly the freedmen. As a result there was authorized by the synod of New Jersey and New York an African School at Parsippany of which abundant information may be obtained from the old pamphlet entitled, "A Plea For Africa," printed by Gould in Chatham Street, New York in 1817. Mr. Ford was doubtless the sole instructor during the school's existence.

He was a noted linguist and during the later years of his life is said to have preached a sermon in Newark entirely in French, and it was his habit to use his Greek and Hebrew bible during his entire life.

After the resignation of Mr. Ford, Mr. J. Ford Sutton was engaged to supply the pulpit for five months. Unusual religious interest attended the ministrations of Mr. Sutton and an earnest movement was made for his ordination and settlement as pastor of the church. To this a very strong opposition was developed, the result of which was the withdrawal of a portion of this church and the organization of the First Presbyterian Church of Parsippany of which Mr. Sutton was ordained pastor. The Rev. A. R. Wolfe was immediately employed to supply the pulpit of this church which he did with great acceptance and success until April 1859 when his health compelled him to cease from ministerial labors. During his ministry there was much religious interest and several additions were made to the church.

On the fifteenth of August 1859 the Rev. F. F. Judd received a unanimous call to the pastorate of this church which was accepted and Mr. Judd continued as pastor until the fall of 1863 when impaired health compelled him to resign. That Mr. Judd was much beloved by this people the following resolution will show. "That we cannot permit relations which have been rendered so dear to us by his faithfulness, ability and discretion as a Christian instructor and by his delicate and well timed ministrations as a pastor at all times, but especially in seasons of sickness and affliction to be closed without a grateful expression of the deep sense of our loss and affectionate assurance that our intercourse with him and his family has been a power for good and will remain with us a cherished recollection, and we do further assure him that our earnest prayer in parting shall be that "He who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb, will have him and his in his keeping."

In 1859 when this church had been built thirty years we find the congregation desiring to remedy some of the original defects in the construction of the building and with a becoming regard to the public taste which has led to improvements very generally in houses of worship, requiring that some modifications or changes should be made in this house.

John N. Mitchell, Andrew J. Smith, John Bates, Monroe Howell and R. V. W. Fairchild were appointed a committee with instructions to proceed to repair and remodel the parsonage, also to build a barn for the same. In April 1860 this committee who were entrusted with the renovation and modernizing of the church and parsonage received a vote of thanks for the "laborous, faithful and highly satisfactory manner in which they have discharged their arduous and responsible duties."

In April 1864 a committee consisting of Thomas O. Smith, John N. Mitchell and William A. Condit were appointed to procure a musical instrument for the church. This organ was used for about ten years when another considerably larger and containing more stops was purchased under the direction of Dr. E. P. Cooper. This one still stands in the church gallery but was consigned to rest from its labors when in 1906 our pipe organ was installed at a cost of \$1,931.25.

Rev. F. A. M. Brown succeeded Mr. Judd in January 1864 but resigned before the year was closed and Rev. Joseph Board came with the congregation from the First Church of Parsippany and remained as acting pastor until 1866. In August 1868 Rev. George Le Boutillier was called to the pastorate and remained in charge until April 1871. During his pastorate in 1870 we find the following minutes: Whereas the Presbyterian Faith is no longer represented in this place by a divided church but now by one reunited, resolved that we the session of this church do render thanks to Christ our Great Head for His love and grace thus manifested and that we call upon this congregation heartily to do the same. We exhort them and one another "To follow after the things that make for peace" and edification, and to walk together as children of our Heavenly Father and as brethren beloved in the Lord.

Dr. Charles Carroll Parker was installed pastor of this church March 27, 1872. He died in the midst of his labors February 8, 1880. Dr. Parker and his family were much beloved by the congregation and we are indebted to him for the two Historical sermons he preached celebrating our one hundredth anniversary on April 5, 1875.

At a parish meeting held April 11, 1874 John N. Mitchell, moderator, and John Ogden, clerk, it was decided that a vote of thanks be sent to Mr. J. Condit Smith for his generous gift of land donated for building a parsonage and to be forever used as church property. The trustees were authorized to sell the old parsonage property and in October 1875 this having been done, Monroe Howell, Garrett De Mott, and Stephen H. Condit were appointed the committee to build the parsonage with instructions that the expense shall not exceed four thousand dollars. A new roof was to be put on the church, walls of the areaways to be repaired,

grounds graded, hitching posts provided, trees set out and such improvements made as the trustees think advisable provided such improvements be paid from money arising from sale of property or any other source than creating a debt.

In 1875 Dr. E. P. Cooper was appointed organist and so remained for ten years. In 1830 Ashbel Burnett was made chorister. In 1841 Frederick Stone and Davis S. Quinby were appointed; in 1843 David S. Quinby and John Stone, in 1849 David S. Quinby and Thomas O. Smith and from this time until 1891 forty-three years Mr. Smith rendered most devoted service and it seems but fitting that his name should be perpetuated on one of the windows of the church.

In June 1880 Rev. A. V. C. Johnson came from Fulton, New York and supplied the pulpit until April 1881. Rev. J. Leonard Corning filled the pulpit a number of months during 1881 and 1882.

In November 1882 Mr. Bullard was called to the pastorate, was ordained and installed January 17, 1883 and for nearly fourteen years or until the fall of 1896 Mr. Bullard rendered faithful service. In that time there were fifty additions to the church by confession and eighteen by letter, a total of sixty-eight.

In 1887 twenty-two horse sheds were built at a cost of \$847.78. In 1889 the Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor was started. In 1891 under the direction of a building committee composed of William C. Bates, Phineas Farrand and Andrew L. Cobb our chapel was built at a cost of \$2,353.00. In 1894 a donation of \$200 was received from Mrs. John Bates, \$35.00 from Mrs. William Condit and \$213.00 from the Ladies fund, making a total of \$448.00. \$430.00 of which was used in repairing the church, putting up ceiling, door in the back, and so forth. That Mr. Bullard has not outlived the esteem and affection of many of his one time parishoners is evidenced by his frequent return when the angel of death visits our community.

Rev. A. A. Zabriskie ministered to the congregation until the coming of Rev. Horace D. Sassaman who was installed as pastor May 18, 1898. In November 1899 the Home Department was organized under Mr. Sassaman's direction with Mrs. George B. Smith as superintendent, Mrs. Phineas Farrand, Mrs. W. B. Benedict, Mrs. J. J. Mitchell and Mrs. H. D. Sassaman as visitors. In 1900 our present mode of holding parish meetings and hearing yearly reports was established. Our ladies' missionary meeting in its present arrangement was due to the organizing ability of Mrs. Sassaman, also our Ladies' Aid Society. The Christian Endeavor Work was dear to the heart of both pastor and wife.

In 1902 nine memorial windows were donated to the church commemorating the names of Rev. John Ford, Rev. C. C. Parker

and Rev. Elihu Doty and his wife Eleanor Smith, daughter of Hiram Smith and his wife, Mary Osborn, who were married in this church on the seventeenth day of February 1847, going thence to Amoy, China where they labored as missionaries until Mrs. Doty's death in 1858. Mr. Isaac L. Condit and wife, Drs. Stephen and R. V. W. Fairchild and Mrs. Stephen Fairchild, Mr. Thomas O. Smith, who for forty-one years was our faithful chorister, Monroe Howell and his wife and daughter, Miss Eliza Cobb and Edward Estle Baldwin are the names perpetuated by the families on these windows. At the time these were placed each pew was lowered to make the seats more comfortable.

Forty-four were added to the church roll by confession and twelve by letter during the seven years Mr. Sassaman was in our midst and he and his family are held in loving remembrance by us all.

Our present pastor, Rev. David A. Craig was installed February 7, 1906. During that year Mr. Craig was made chairman of the committee composed of Dr. E. P. Cooper, W. C. Bates, W. H. Grimes, Jr., and W. O. Cooper to procure the pipe organ to which reference has been made, this committee was continued to purchase a new furnace for the church using the balance of the organ fund for the purpose. .

In 1911 a bathroom and steam heat was put in the parsonage at a cost of \$959.20. This past year 1914 the house has been painted at an expenditure of \$208.15 and our chapel addition of kitchen and serving room been completed for \$1,591.55 of which sum we have a debt of \$500.00 without interest. Mrs. Horace T. Brumley has presented the congregation with fixtures and wiring for electric lights in the chapel, and how shall I adequately describe the gift of land and work so generously provided by Mr. Vail. It has changed the landscape into one beautiful picture and given to all who are permitted to look upon it an incentive to better things. Our financial conditions seem very prosperous and now our pastor has asked us to turn our thoughts to the better part, "Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high."

I will preserve the list of names of elders and trustees with this history, but must tarry for a moment to speak of two who have given long and faithful service. In 1863 Phineas Farrand's name appears for the first time when he was elected trustee for two years. In 1878 he was again elected and continued in office until 1908 when his son W. O. Farrand was appointed in his stead, thirty consecutive years and two in his early life. William C. Bates was elected in 1891 serving almost the entire time as treasurer of the board. Until in April 1913 when Andrew J. Smith was appointed Treasurer.

The care of the cemetery seems to have been on the minds and hearts of our worthy ancestors from the time when the sexton was to be dismissed for turning any creature other than a sheep on a grave yard lot until by the energy of Mr. John O. Condit, Hiram Smith and Monroe Howell and later John L. Baldwin and others, there was in 1889 a fund of \$921.00 bearing interest which was to be used for keeping the yard in order.

We have had sweet singers and faithful organists but time fails us to record their names.

Ere long our church will have been reared a rounded century.

“Here shed the radiance of Thy face,
And the rich glories of Thy grace,
Forever may this temple be
A covenant pledge twixt us and Thee.”

A. C. B.

Read at the home of Mrs. A. B. Paulmier, April 13, 1915.

**THE LIST OF RULING ELDERS SINCE THE FIRST DATE
OF SESSION BOOK IN 1834.**

Lot Dixon	Harkness Bastelo	B. Smith Condit
Silas Baldwin	Timothy W. Crane	Edmund Thompkins
Jacob Heller	William A. Condit	S. Hobert Condit
Henry Harrison	Edward Tuttle	E. Halsey Ball
John Mitchell	John Ogden	Charles F. Ogden
Paul Leonard	Marcus L. Dixon	William O. Cooper
Abraham Kanouse	George E. Righter	Frederick D. Johnson
James Lewis	William H. Grimes	Judd Condit
William Dixon	John Orvil Burnett	
Archibald D. Green	Isaac L. Condit	

**FROM THIS LIST OF NAMES THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN
SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.**

Silas Baldwin	George E. Righter	S. Hobart Condit
Archibald D. Green	Isaac L. Condit	Judd Condit
William A. Condit	B. Smith Condit	E. Halsey Ball

TRUSTEES.

Stephen Fairchild	John A. Cobb	Phineas Farrand
Hiram Smith, Jr.	Amos Harrison	Samuel B. Harrison
William Gladson	Benjamin L. Condit	James H. Quinby
John O. Condit	Thomas O. Smith	George E. Righter
Tobias Boudinot	Timothy W. Crane	Isaac L. Condit
Henry Harrison	William A. Condit	De Witt Quinby
Walter Kirkpatrick	Henry Boughton	George B. Smith
William H. Thomas	John N. Mitchell	Garrett De Mott
William N. Hennion	John De Hart	Melvin S. Condit
Samuel F. Ogden	Benjamin F. Howell	Richard Smith
Jacob Green	Andrew J. Smith	William C. Bates
David S. Quinby	Edgar G. Smith	George W. Smith
James Renton	Charles F. Ogden	E. Halsey Ball
Samuel P. Smith	R. V. W. Fairchild	Theodore S. Condit
Jacob Holloway	F. N. Benedict	William B. Benedict
John Mitchell	Monroe Howell	John S. Kitchell
Ebenezer F. Smith	Stephen H. Condit	Raymond R. Webb
Jacob Heller	John Bates	William O. Farrand
Elijah D. Thompkins	Edward E. Baldwin	Andrew J. Smith 2nd
Samuel F. Righter	John C. Green	
Benjamin B. Green	Edward Tuttle	

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